

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOE-15
SOE-02 OES-07 /125 W
-----093877 071136Z /20/12

R 060440Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8391
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDAA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4559

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O., TAGS AND SUBJECT ADDED)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, IR, AF
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ON AFGHANISTAN

1. WHEN I PAID MY FAREWELL CALL ON JUNE 4 ON THE IRANIAN
AMBASSADOR, HOSSEIN DAVOUDI, I FOUND HIM UNUSUALLY TALKATIVE
ABOUT THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. HE IS PESSIMISTIC.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY, DAVOUDI SAID NO DECISION HAS
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BEEN MADE YET ON THE FUTURE OF IRANIAN AID TO AFGHANISTAN.
HE SAID HE HAS SUGGESTED TO THE AFGHANS THAT THEY CONSIDER
SENDING AN ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO TEHRAN ONCE THEY HAVE AN
AMBASSADOR THERE AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME, IRAN IS SHIPPING
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO AFGHANISTAN ON THE SAME BASIS AS BEFORE
THE COUP. DAVOUDI SAYS HE HAS TOLD THE AFGHANS THAT IRAN'S
FIRST CRITERION IN CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO EXTEND AID IS

WHETHER AFGHANISTAN IS, INDEED, AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.

3. DAVOUDI APPEARS TO HAVE ALREADY ANSWERED FOR HIMSELF HIS QUESTION REGARDING AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID HE SEES THE TARAKI REGIME AS AN INTERMEDIATE REGIME BETWEEN THAT OF THE DAOUD REGIME -- WHICH DESTROYED THE MONARCHY -- AND A FULL SOVIET-BACKED COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. HE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS ARE USING EVERY OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE NEW REGIME TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE AND TO TRAIN CADRES FOR THE EVENTUAL FULL TAKEOVER.

4. DAVOUDI IS ALSO GLOOMY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THE REGION FOLLOWING THE AFGHAN COUP. HE POINTS OUT THAT THE TWO NEW DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS OF AFGHANISTAN ARE NOT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNISTS-LINE PARTY, BUT HAVE ALSO SERVED IN PAKISTAN, IN PESHAWAR AND QUETTA, AND THEREFORE NO DOUBT HAVE AGENTS IN THE PUSHTUN AND BALUCH AREAS OF PAKISTAN READY TO STIR UP TROUBLE. DAVOUDI HAS ALSO HEARD THAT THE EXILED PUSHTUN COMMUNIST, AJMAL KHATTAK, HAS BEEN MEETING WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE.

5. DAVOUDI, LIKE THE REST OF US, HAS OF COURSE NOTED THE FLOOD OF SOVIET-AFGHAN AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN CONSUMMATED SINCE THE COUP. HE ASSUMES THAT THE SOVIET ADVISERS IN VARIOUS AFGHAN MINISTRIES HAVE PREPARED THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR SPEEDY SIGNATURE.

6. THE ONLY HAPPENING WHICH HAS AT LL CHEERED DAVOUDI HAS
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BEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLING HIM THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN REMAIN VALID. HE SAID THIS INCLUDES THE HELMAND WATER TREATY.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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